AWIO20 FMEE 051246
TROPICAL CYCLONE CENTER / RSMC LA REUNION / METEO-FRANCE

BULLETIN FOR CYCLONIC ACTIVITY AND SIGNIFICANT TROPICAL WEATHER
IN THE SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN

DATE: 05/01/2026 AT 1200 UTC

PART 1: WARNING SUMMARY

Bulletin WTIO30 031/05 issued at 06 UTC on Zone of Disturbed Weather GRANT.

PART 2 : TROPICAL WEATHER DISCUSSION

The basin displays a monsoon trough (MT) configuration east of 55E and between 9S and 15S. Convective activity is moderate north of the MT, in the Mozambique Channel, and within system GRANT which is drifting away south-west of the MT while gradually weakening.

Equatorial wave conditions are favorable for cyclogenesis in the coming days. In the short term, the monsoon flux is enhanced in the lee of a moist MJO moving away to the east of the Indian ocean. In addition, an equatorial Rossby wave is forecast to move westwards across the basin over the coming week and is expected to cross a Kelvin wave and also an MRG wave around 10-12 January. This overlapping of various waves should enhance convergence and vorticity within the MT over a broad central part of the basin for the second half of the week.

Tropical Disturbance GRANT :
Information at 09 UTC :
Estimated position : 16.5S / 55.6E
Movement : WSW 9 kt
Maximum wind speed (averaged over 10 minutes) : 25 kt
Estimated central pressure : 1004 hPa
For further information, please refer to bulletin WTIO30 issued at 06 UTC, final warning on this system, unless reintensification.

Tropical Storm JENNA incoming from the Australian region :
Tropical Storm JENNA was named by the BOM this Monday, January 5th at 06UTC near the Cocos Islands. According to the BOM's forecasts, it should intensify until Tuesday evening and then begin to weaken on Wednesday before moving westward and entering our basin during the night of Wednesday 7th to Thursday 8th. However, unfavorable environmental conditions (strong northwesterly wind shear, dry air intrusions) are expected to rapidly weaken it as it crosses 90E. Although there is a slight chance that JENNA will still be a tropical storm when it enters our basin, the system is expected to quickly be downgraded to remnant low stage. Moreover, winds reaching gale force due to pressure gradient effect south of the system are not expected to last more than 12 to 24 hours in our basin.

The likelihood of JENNA entering our basin at tropical storm stage is low from Wednesday night. From Friday onwards, there are no more chances of it remaining a tropical storm.

South-east of the Chagos archipelago :
As convergence strengthens within the MT in connection with the passage of the equatorial Rossby wave in the middle of the week, a low-pressure system is expected to form in the coming days south to southeast of the Chagos archipelago. Environmental conditions should be temporarily favorable for the development of this low with low shear, good upper divergence and warm surface waters. However, the approach of the remnants of JENNA southeast of this low from Friday onwards is expected to cut off the polar trade wind feed and hinder cyclogenesis. A minority of ensemble model members suggest the formation of a tropical storm in the second half of the week.

The risk of tropical storm development south-east of the Chagos archipelago becomes very low from Friday 9th then low from Saturday January 10th onwards.

North-east of Madagascar :

As the remnants of GRANT move away and vanish near Madagascar, the trade winds should converge more efficiently to the south of the MT at the end of the week. At the same time, equatorial wave activity should enhance vorticity and strengthen the monsoon flow. This could enable the formation of a new low-pressure system off the north-east of Madagascar, somewhere between the Farquhar and Agalega islands. NWP output remains quite uncertain about the cyclogenesis potential, depending on more or less efficient convergence. GFS and GEFS are the most reactive, while the EPS suggests a more limited risk, which seems to appear by the coming weekend of January 10th.

The risk of tropical storm development north-east of Madagascar becomes very low from Friday 9th then low from Saturday January 10th onwards.

NOTA BENE: The likelihood is an estimate of the chance of genesis of a moderate tropical storm over the basin within the next five days:

Very low: less than 10% *Moderate: 30% to 60%* *Very high: over 90%*
Low: 10% to 30% *High: 60% to 90%*

The Southwestern Indian ocean basin extends from the Equator to 40S and from the african coastlines to 90E.